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REMARKS

Claims 1-53 were pending in the present Application.

Claims 1, 13, 17, 23, and 35 have been amended, Claims 10, 22, 40, and 53 have been canceled, and Claim 54 has been added, leaving Claims 1-9, 11-39, 41-52, and 54 for further consideration in the present amendment. In addition, the specification has been amended to provide proper antecedent support for Claim 46 as discussed below.

No new matter has been entered by amendment. For example, Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 10. Claim 13 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 22. Claim 23 has been amended to provide clarity to the claim language, support for which can be found in original Claim 13. Claim 35 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 40. Support for newly added Claim 54 can be found in originally filed Claims 1 and 12.

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis. In particular, Claim 46 mentions the subject matter of "the aqueous plating bath comprises a nickel salt, a cobalt salt, an iron salt, or combinations comprising at least one of the foregoing salts."

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thoroughness as well as for bringing this to Applicants' attention. Applicants have since amended the specification at paragraph [0019] to provide proper antecedent basis for the claim language. Support can be found in originally filed Claim 46. Accordingly, the rejection is requested to be withdrawn.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

The objection to Claim 13 has been rendered moot in view of the amendment changing the original term "cBN" to amended term "CBN". The amendment merely corrects a typographical error and is not intended to limit the scope of the claim.

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Likewise, the objection to Claim 23 has been rendered moot in view of the amendment thereto.

Claims rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 (a)

Claims 1-9, 13-20, 23-25, 35-39, 41-44, and 53 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,061,525 to Grazen et. al. (Grazen) in view of U.S. Patent 4,305,792 to Kedward et. al. (Kedward) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0183529A1 to Ohara et al. (Ohara). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 10, which were indicated as allowable. Since Claims 2-9 and 11-15 depend from Claim 1 and include at least the same features as Claim 1, these claims are patentable for the same reasons.

Likewise, independent Claim 35 has been amended to include the features of Claim 40, which were indicated as allowable. Thus, dependent Claims 36-39 and 41-44 are patentable over the cited references.

Independent Claim 17 has been amended to include the features of Claim 22, which were indicated in the Office Action as allowable. Thus, dependent Claims 18-21 and 22-25 are patentable over the cited references.

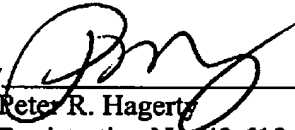
In view of the foregoing, the rejection of Claims 1-9, 13-20, 23-25, 35-39, 41-44, and 53 are requested to be withdrawn.

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If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0868.

Respectfully submitted,

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